(c) whether about eighty two thousand cases are pending in the Court;

(d) whether any recommendation has been received from Government of Bihar as well as Patna High Court for filling up of vacant posts; and

(e) if so, by when Government would complete the task of increasing the number of Judges and filling up of vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) The approved strength of a High Court is fixed taking into account the volume of institution and disposal of main cases and not on the basis of pupulation. Against the approved strength of 31 Judges of the Patna High Court, as on 1.8.2002, 23 permanent Judges, including 3 transferee Judges, are in position in the Patna High Court. Five Judges from Patna High Court are working in other High Courts. As against *six* vacancies, which can be filled up by appointment, in the Patna High Court, recommendation for filling up of two vacancies only has been received from the Patna High Court. Recommendation for filling up of the remaining vacancies is awaited from the Chief Justice of the High Court. The remaining two vacancies in the Patna High Court can be filled up by transfer of Judges from other High Courts. The Law Commission has not recommended any minimum requirement of Judges in the case of the Patna High Court.

As regards pending cases, as on 31st December, 2001, 80956 cases were reported as pending in the Patna High Court.

The Judge strength of every High Court is reviewed every three years. The Chief Justices of all High Courts, including the Patna High Court, were requested to furnish comprehensive details regarding institution and disposal of main cases during the period 1997—2001 by July 31, 2002. Response from majority of High Courts is yet to be received.

CJI on implementation of Civil Procedure Code Amendments

2741. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Chief Justice of India has urged the Lawyers and Judges all over the country to extend their wholehearted cooperation in

the implementation of the Civil Procedure Code Amendments which came into force from July, 2002 to ensure speedy justice to people;

(b) if so, whether under this, a time-frame has been stressed for disposal of all civil cases within a year; and

(c) whether the Chief Justice of India has decided to monitor the progress of civil cases in the courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such provision has been made for disposal of civil cases within a period of one year in the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Acts.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

Pending cases from Andhra Pradesh in Supreme Court

2742. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are nearly 5000 court cases pending before the Supreme Court from Andhra Pradesh alone;

(b) whether these include cases filed by the State Government, citizens of the State in matters of public interest and others;

(c) if so, the total number of cases pending with the Supreme Court from other States; and

(d) the reasons put forward by the Supreme Court for delay in pronouncing the judgement in these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Only 1,691 cases from Andhra Pradesh were pending in the Supreme Court as on 31st July, 2002. These include the cases filed by the State Government and citizens of the State under Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and others.

(c) 22,959 cases were pending in the Supreme Court from other States (excluding Andhra Pradesh) as on 31st July, 2002.